

Amendments to the Claims:

- (1) Please cancel claims 1-19 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof.
- (2) Please add new claims 20-38.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-19 (cancelled):

Claim 20 (New): An integrally formed clamp for use as a clothes peg, said clamp comprising:

an opposed pair of first and second elongate substantially rigid members, said first elongate member having a first handle portion and a first clamping portion and said second elongate member having a second handle portion and a second clamping portion;

a flexible joint intermediate the lengths of said first and second elongate members configured to urge said first and second clamping portions into a clamping position when said clamp is in a passive state; and

a locking device, wherein said locking device has a hinge connecting a first end of said locking device to said first handle portion and movable about said hinge, and a second free and adapted to releasably cooperate with said second handle portion whereby to lock said first and second handle portions in spaced relationship preventing said first and second handle portions from being moved towards one another when said clamp is in a locked position.

Claim 21 (New): The clamp according to claim 20 for keeping members of a pair of garments together during laundry processing, wherein in the passive state said first and second clamping portions are urged into a clamping position and said first and second handle portions are held in spaced relationship by said flexible joint, upon compression of said first and second handle portions, said first and second clamping portions are forced apart such that said first and second clamping portions are adapted to receive said garments and to clamp together said garments when said first and

second handle portions are released, and said clamping portions secure said garments against dislodgment from said clamp.

Claim 22 (New): The clamp according to claim 20, further comprising a hanging member provided on said clamp.

Claim 23 (New): The clamp according to claim 20 wherein said locking device includes a ramp to guide said second handle portion into cooperative engagement with said locking device.

Claim 24 (New): The clamp according to claim 23 wherein said ramp is a cam surface.

Claim 25 (New): The clamp according to claim 23 wherein said locking device includes an inclined surface tapering from said ramp towards said hinge, and said second handle portion includes a complementary support surface on which said inclined surface rests when said locking device is engaged to said second handle portion.

Claim 26 (New): The clamp according to claim 21 wherein said locking device includes a shoulder and an adjacent recess, and wherein said second handle portion includes a protrusion adapted to ride over said shoulder and lockably rest in said recess, said protrusion being held in said recess by the flexing force of said first and second elongate members.

Claim 27 (New): The clamp according to claim 21 wherein said second handle portion includes a shoulder and an adjacent recess, and wherein said locking device includes a protrusion adapted to ride over said shoulder and lockably rest in said recess, said protrusion being held in said recess by the flexing force of said first and second elongate members.

Claim 28 (New): The clamp according to claim 21 wherein said second handle portion includes a guiding, longitudinally aligned slot configured to cooperate with a knob extending from said locking device.

Claim 29 (New): The clamp according to claim 21 wherein said locking device includes a longitudinally aligned slot configured to cooperate with a guiding knob extending from said second handle portion.

Claim 30 (New): The clamp according to claim 21 wherein the terminal end of said second handle portion includes a platform oriented transverse to the longitudinal

axis thereof, and said locking device includes a complementary flat surface adapted to abut said platform when said locking device and said second handle portion are cooperatively engaged.

Claim 31 (New): The clamp according to claim 21 wherein said hinge comprises a portion of material extending between said locking device and said first handle portion, said hinge is configured to be flexible without failing when subjected to continuous use.

Claim 32 (New): The clamp according to claim 21, wherein said first and second elongate members each include an elongate reinforcing ridge, said reinforcing ridge tapers towards the respective ends of said elongate member.

Claim 33 (New): The clamp according to claim 21 wherein said first and second clamping portions include gripping features.

Claim 34 (New): The clamp according to claim 33 wherein said gripping features include opposed rows of teeth on each of the inner facing surfaces of said first and second clamping portions.

Claim 35 (New): A clamp comprising:

- a first elongate substantially rigid member having a first handle portion and a first clamping portion;
- a second elongate member having a second handle portion and a second clamping portion;
- a flexible joint intermediate the lengths of said first and second elongate members configured to urge said first and second clamping portions into a clamping position when said clamp is in a passive state; and
- a locking device having a first end and a second free end, said first end being movable connectable to said first handle portion via a hinge, said second free end being adapted to releasably cooperate with said second handle portion whereby to lock said first and second handle portions in spaced relationship preventing said first and second handle portions from being moved towards one another when said clamp is in a locked position;

wherein said locking device includes a ramp to guide said second handle portion into cooperative engagement with said locking device, and an inclined surface tapering from said ramp towards said hinge;

wherein said second handle portion includes a complementary support surface on which said inclined surface rests when said locking device is engaged to said second handle portion.

Claim 36 (New): The clamp according to claim 35 wherein said locking device includes a shoulder and an adjacent recess, and wherein said second handle portion includes a protrusion adapted to ride over said shoulder and lockably rest in said recess, said protrusion being held in said recess by the flexing force of said first and second elongate members.

Claim 37 (New): A clamp comprising:

a first elongate substantially rigid member, said first elongate member having a first handle portion and a first clamping portion, said first elongate member includes an elongate reinforcing ridge, said reinforcing ridge tapers towards the respective end of said first elongate member;

a second elongate member, said second elongate member having a second handle portion and a second clamping portion, said second elongate member includes an elongate reinforcing ridge, said reinforcing ridge tapers towards the respective end of said second elongate member;

a flexible joint intermediate the lengths of said first and second elongate members configured to urge said first and second clamping portions into a clamping position when said clamp is in a passive state; and

a locking device having a first end and a second free end, said first end being movable connected to said first handle portion through a hinge, said second free end being adapted to releasably cooperate with said second handle portion whereby to lock said first and second handle portions in spaced relationship preventing said first and second handle portions from being moved towards one another when said clamp is in a locked position;

wherein said locking device includes a ramp to guide said second handle portion into cooperative engagement with said locking device, and an inclined surface tapering from said ramp towards said hinge;

wherein said locking device includes a shoulder and an adjacent recess, and wherein said second handle portion includes a protrusion adapted to ride over said shoulder and lockably rest in said recess, said protrusion being held in said recess by the flexing force of said first and second elongate members;

wherein said second handle portion includes a complementary support surface on which said inclined surface rests when said locking device is engaged to said second handle portion;

wherein the terminal end of said second handle portion includes a platform oriented transverse to the longitudinal axis thereof and said locking device includes a complementary flat surface adapted to abut said platform when said locking device and said second handle portion are cooperatively engaged.

Claim 38 (New): The clamp according to claim 37 wherein said second handle portion includes a guiding, longitudinally aligned slot configured to cooperate with a knob extending from said locking device.